

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Mold-closing unit for an injection molding machine for processing plastics materials and other plasticizable masses, comprising:

a stationary mold carrier;

a support element;

a moveable mold carrier disposed between the support element and the stationary mold carrier; ~~which has between itself and the stationary mold carrier~~

a mold tenting space disposed between the stationary mold carrier and the moveable mold carrier to accommodate injection molds of variable height, measured in a closing direction;

a drive adapted to move the moveable mold carrier and the support element; ~~in the closing direction towards the stationary mold carrier and away from the stationary mold carrier, which drive has at least two parts operationally connected to one another, of which one part is supported on a support element, and the other part is connected to the moveable mold carrier,~~

guide elements ~~which~~ that guide the moveable mold carrier and the support element during its movement in the closing direction, having at least one portion of the moveable mold carrier and the support element; and

a device for variably fixing the spacing between the stationary mold carrier and the moveable mold carrier measured with the injection mold closed and assuming a movement path of the moveable mold carrier unaltered in relation to a state before alteration of the spacing, ~~which device enters operational connection with the portion of the guide elements to fix the spacing,~~

~~a fixing device allocated to the moveable mold carrier which, on actuation, fixes the moveable mold carrier in its respective position,~~

means for moving the support element independently from the moveable mold carrier wherein when the fixing device is actuated and the device for variably fixing the spacing is out of operational connection, the drive alters the spacing by displacing the device for variably fixing the spacing along the portion of the guide elements,

wherein one of the two parts of the drive extends as a linear movement means for the moveable mold carrier in a linear manner in the closing direction even during the

RLP-0010
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closing movement.

2. (Currently Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1, wherein ~~the drive adjustably alters its own opening stroke when the spacing is altered~~ ^{means for moving the} support element includes a first device and a second device.

3. (Currently Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1, wherein the drive is a hydraulic drive, the drive includes and the parts of the drive are the cylinder and a piston rod of a hydraulic piston-cylinder unit.

4. (Previously Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1, wherein the drive is an electromechanical drive and ~~that the parts of the drive includes~~ a rotational element and a linear movement means in operational connection ~~therewith~~ with the rotational element.

5. (Currently Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim ~~1~~ ², wherein ~~means for moving the support element includes an alternate actuation between the first device and the second device~~ variably fixing the spacing and of the fixing device for mold height adjustment includes alternate actuation of the device.

6. (Currently Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim ~~1~~ ², wherein the first device for variably fixing the spacing is a clamping device and the second device for fixing the spacing is a fixing device, the second device ~~enters positive operational connection~~ is in operable communication with ~~the~~ portion of the guide elements.

7. (Currently Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 6, wherein the clamping device has a first collet chuck, which is disposed coaxially to the guide element in ~~the~~ region of the portion of the guide elements and can be transferred with the portion of the guide elements into positive operational connection free from play.

8. (Previously Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 7, wherein the first collet chuck has a conical region that is in hydraulic operational connection with a cone ring connected to an annular piston and under the force of resilient means, the annular piston being axially moveable to a limited extent along the guide element.

9. (Previously Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 6, wherein the portion of the guide elements has a thread to form a positive operational connection with a threaded bush of the clamping device.

10. (Previously Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 6, wherein the

clamping device, to form a positive operational connection with the portion of the guide elements has at least one nut which is operationally connected to a thread of said portion.

11. (Currently Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 4~~2~~, wherein the ~~actuated fixing~~second device fixes the moveable mold carrier in a non-positive manner to the guide elements.

12. (Previously Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 11, wherein the fixing device has a second collet chuck which is disposed coaxially to one of the guide elements and is fixed on the moveable mold carrier.

13. (Previously Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 12, wherein the second collet chuck has a conical region and wherein a second hydraulically actuated annular piston with a conical portion effects the clamping with the conical region when hydraulic pressure is applied.

C/ 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Added) Mold-closing unit according to claim 13, the second annular piston being able to be reset via an additional resilient element.

17. (New) Mold-closing unit according to claim 2, wherein the first device variably fixes the mold tentering space, the first device enters operational connection with a portion of the guide elements to fix the mold tentering space,

the second device is a fixing device allocated to the moveable mold carrier which, on actuation, fixes the moveable mold carrier in its respective position,

wherein when the second device is actuated and the first device is out of operational connection, the drive alters the mold tentering space by displacing the first device along the guide elements,

wherein a part of the drive extends as a linear movement means for the moveable mold carrier in a linear manner in a closing direction even during the closing movement.

18. (New) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1, wherein the drive adjustably alters its own opening stroke when the mold tentering space is altered.

19. (New) Mold-closing unit for an injection molding machine for processing plastics materials and other plasticizable masses, comprising:

a stationary mold carrier;

a support element;

a moveable mold carrier disposed between the support element and the stationary mold carrier;

a mold tenting space disposed between the stationary mold carrier and the moveable mold carrier to accommodate injection molds of variable height;

a drive adapted to move the moveable mold carrier and the support element;

means for guiding the moveable mold carrier and the support element during a movement of the moveable mold carrier and the support element; and

means for moving the support element independently from the moveable mold carrier.

20. (New) Mold-closing unit according to claim 19, wherein means for guiding includes guide elements that guide the moveable mold carrier and the support element during movement of the moveable mold carrier and the support element.

21. (New) Mold-closing unit according to claim 19, wherein means for guiding includes a piston rod of the drive, the piston rod is in operational communication with means for moving the support element.

22. (New) Mold-closing unit according to claim 19, wherein means for guiding includes a force transmission element having a first end and a second end, said first end is hinged to the stationary mold carrier, and the drive is supported on the second end.

23. (New) Mold-closing unit according to claim 19, wherein means for moving the support element includes a first device and a second device.

24. (New) Mold-closing unit according to claim 23, wherein the first device is a clamping device and the second device is a fixing device, the second device is in operable communication with the means for guiding.